any, required to be made to suit their local conditions. It is proposed to be finalised in a meeting of Health Ministetrs of the States/UTs very shortly. It is expected that the Action Plan evolved in this manner will be more practical and result oriented, because while the Central Government provides funds for the Programme and lays down broad framework, the actual implementation is the responsibility of the States/UTs.

(c) to (e) The details of the proposed VAFAH apex body have not yet been finished.

Introduction of Low-Dose Pill

1918. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Low-dose pill of international Standard on family planning has been introduced in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof with sources of availability of same in the country;

(c) the extent to which the step is likely to check the growth of population; and

(d) if so, the details of the funds proposed to be spent in their regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA-DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the National Family Welfare Programme, low dose oral contraceptive pills with brand names Mala-N, Mala-D, Ecroz and Pearl are offered. Whereas, Mala-N is distributed free through Family Welfare Centres and Workers and some Non-Governmental machinery, other brands are sold through chemists/druggist outlets through selected voluntary orgainsations and pharmaceutical marketing companies. While Mala-N and Mala-D are available throughout the country. 'Ecroz' and 'Pearl' are marketed by concerned voluntary organisations only in selected States.

(c) These pills when taken regularly are highly efficatious in preventing pregnancies at such the Pill is an efficient method for birth spacing and population control.

(d) The funds for this programme in the Eighth Plan is dependent upon the allocattion to be made for the National Family Welfare Programme.

Infant Mortality and Birth Rate

1919. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the infant mortality rate during the last three years at national level and at level of states, state-wise; and

(b) what was the birth rate during the same period at national level and the level of States, State-wise

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA-DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) A statement indicating infant mortality rates for the last three years at national level and at the level of states, state-wise as per the Samples Registration System (SRS) of Registrar General of India is given at Statement—I. (*See* below). The SRS system provides the estimates only for the major State.

(b) the birth rate for the samet period at national level and the leval of States, state-wise as per SRS of Registrar General of India is at Statement—II. (*See* below)

Statement-I

Estimated Infant Mortality Rate for Major States: 1988, 1989—1990
(Sample Registration System)

State	Infant Mortality Rate		
	1988	1989	1990
Andhra Pradesh	83	81	70
Assam	99	91	77
Bihar	97	91	95